(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC) has funded the State Electricity Department of the Government of Manipur for purchase of electric meters;

(b) whether the supply of meters have been completed by the supplier;

(c) whether the funds released by REC Ltd. to the State Government meant for the purpose have been diverted; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the REC Ltd., to ensure that the funds meant for purchase of electric meters are not diverted?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) sanctioned a scheme in 1999-2000 for the Electricity Department, Government of Manipur, for purchase of Electric Meters involving a loan assistance of Rs. 5.16 crores and on the basis of invoices, a sum of Rs. 3.4 crores was released to the Government of Manipur on 31st March, 2000. REC provides loans to the State Government for procurement of meters according to its guidelines. These guidelines concern quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing & inspection procedures etc. as per standards, norms and procedures specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. However, the procurement decisions, quality approvals and the payments to the suppliers against material received are done by the State Government concerned.

Announcement made in Honour of Soldiers killed during Kargil War

†*156. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made certain announcements in honour of soldiers killed in Kargil war for helping their kith and kin and if so, whether these announcements have been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's reaction towards each of the news-items

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

appearing at page 2 of the 'Dainik Jagran' from 31.5.2000 till date under the caption 'Kargil'; and

(d) the action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The widows or the next of kin of the Armed Forces personnel killed in Kargil operation have been paid an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs.10 lakhs each. They have been sanctioned Liberalised Family Pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased personnel and have been granted Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity as admissible under the rules.

The families of such deceased Defence personnel have also been given following benefits from the National Defence Fund and the Army Central Welfare Fund:—

National Defence Fund:

(i) Grant for Children Education: Rs. 1 lakh per child, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs per family. The amount has been made available to the concerned Regimental Centres for depositing the same in long-term fixed deposit. The interest earned from such deposit is made available to the widow or the children for education. The principal amount would be made available to the child at the conclusion of his/her education.

(ii) Financial Assistance to Parents: Dependent parent of the deceased soldiers are to be paid monthly interest accruing from a fixed deposit of Rs. 1.20 lakhs per family. It has been decided to increase this amount to Rs.2.00 lakhs per family.

(iii) **Housing Grant:** A sum of Rs.5 lakhs is given to all the war widows/NOK (in case the deceased Defence personnel was a bachelor) and to those Defence personnel invalidated out of service due to war injuries for construction/acquisition of a dwelling unit or for renovation, modification/addition of the existing dwelling unit on the land provided by the State Government or on his/her own land.

Army Central Welfare Fund:

A sum of Rs. 30,000/- has been paid to next of kin of each deceased Armed Forces personnel.

Petroleum Product Agencies:

A Special Scheme for direct allotment of 500 oil product agencies to the next of kin of those killed in Kargil operation was announced. Under this scheme applications from 425 widows/next of kin have been received. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have approved allotment of oil product agencies in 281 cases. The remaining 144 cases are in progress.

Houses by the Delhi Development Authority:

The Delhi Development Authority have formulated a scheme named 'Vijay Veer Awas Yojana' in New Delhi for providing dwelling units for the families of officers and jawans killed in operation and to those disabled. Under this scheme, 134 flats have already been allotted.

The grievances of the members of the bereaved families of Kargil martyrs reported in Dainik Jagran of 31st May, 2000 onwards generally relate to financial assistnace by the State Governments, construction of roads, construction of memorials, naming of places of public utility, etc. These matters are within the administrative jurisdiction of the respective State Governments and/or Local authorities. The Central Government do not have any information about the pronouncements made by the concerned State Government/Local authorities and about their implementation.

Rajiv Longowal Accord

*157. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is seething discontent in Punjab for non-implementation of Rajiv-Longowal Accord; and

(b) with the party in power in Punjab being an ally of the Centre whether any progress has been made towards the implementation of the Accord?